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### Tarsis at P.E.N.

To the Editor:

Arthur Miller, the international president of P.E.N., in his speech at the opening of the P.E.N. congress in New York expressed disappointment that the expected delegation of observers from the Soviet Union had not arrived. "In the absence of an official explanation," said Mr. Miller, "it is inevitable to assume that it was feared the Sinyavsky-Daniel case would have brought strong criticism from members of P.E.N. upon the delegation."

I suggest there is a simpler and more immediate reason for the sudden cancellation of the visit by the Soviet Writers Union. On the officially published list of congress members appears the name of Valery Tarsis, recently exiled from the Soviet Union. It would be inconceivable for the Soviet delegation to be in the conference room together with Mr. Tarsis. Thus those who included the name of Mr. Tarsis on the list of P.E.N. congress members, consciously or unconsciously delivered a slap in the face to the coming delegation of observers from the Soviet Union.

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Elmhurst, L. I.,

New York, June 14, 1966

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